

Did you know...



Children learn about language by listening to parents and caregivers talk and by joining in conversation. Talking with your baby or toddler every day helps her develop important language skills. Helping your child develop these skills when she is young will help her understand what she hears, and later, what she reads.

Very young children can understand spoken words long before they can speak any of them — so talk with them throughout the day and you will be amazed at how your child responds!

Here's how...



- ✱ Talk to your baby in “parentese,” which is talking in a sing-song way, stretching out your vowels.
- ✱ Re-tell stories with your child using puppets or props. Talk about what is going on in the pictures.
- ✱ Name things (real objects and pictures in books) as you go through the day. Use songs and nursery rhymes.
- ✱ Make sure your child has lots of chances to talk *with* you, not just listen to you talk.
- ✱ Ask your baby a question and then answer for her. “Your diaper needs changing; should we do that now? Yes, let’s change it now!”
- ✱ Use the language that is most comfortable for you.

Read



***Giraffes Can't Dance*, by Giles Andreae**



Gerald would love to join in with the other animals at the Jungle Dance, but everyone knows that giraffes can't dance... or can they?

Choosing Books



Some books come in a board book format, but they are not really very good books for babies and toddlers. **Look for books with:**

Bright, colorful, but simple pictures

Books with photographs, especially people

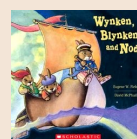
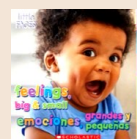
Short repeating phrases

Rhyming text

Pages with textures

Animals, animal sounds

Everyday objects or topics





One of the most important things you can do with your baby or toddler is respond to their babbling by babbling or talking back to them. It is called “serve and return” interaction. This short video explains what it does for your baby’s brain:

<http://tinyurl.com/Harvard-serve-return>

Ready to Write



Squeezing, touching, poking, pinching, and grasping are all important fine motor skills that will help develop the little muscles in fingers and hands. Let your child explore items with different textures, such as bubble wrap, sand paper, playdough, hairbrushes, paper towel tubes, sponges, cooked spaghetti noodles, different kinds of fabrics, an egg carton, hair rollers, balls of yarn, a pine cone... Never leave your child unattended while they are handling these kinds of items.

Play



Through play children develop so many skill areas such as language and literacy, science, and math. They also develop social and emotional skills, which are just as important as academic skills when it comes to being ready to start school. Playdates can help children learn to share and solve conflicts. Action songs help your child listen and follow directions, while teaching about words and sounds. “Pretend” play lets your child try out skills and roles they see from adults. Provide dress-up clothes for your toddler and play “store” or “restaurant.”

Join in! Playing with your child every day is one of the most important things you can do to help them be happy and healthy.



Skinnamarinky Dinky Dink

Skinnamarinky dinky dink,
Skinnamarinky dinky doo.
Skinnamarinky dinky dink,
I love you!

(Repeat)

I love you in the morning,
And in the afternoon.
I love you in the evening,
And underneath the moon.

Skinnamarinky dinky dink,
Skinnamarinky dinky doo.
Skinnamarinky dinky dink,
I love you!



Hear this song at

<https://tinyurl.com/WCCLS-skinamarinky>

At your library...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is “Believe and Achieve!” Libraries across the state are planning fun events that celebrate family reading.

Ask your librarian about special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 8—14, 2021.